

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #42** **Summer Announcement #38, District 1 Commercial Fishing Period** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 94,100 Chinook salmon through July 3 is well below the historical average of 124,000 for this date. Conversely, the Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate is approximately 2.1 million fish which is well above the median of 1.3 million for this date. Poor Chinook salmon run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution as the 2013 run progresses.

Based on current run assessment information, additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. A reduced subsistence fishing period with 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets is being allowed to target abundant summer chum salmon while avoiding Chinook salmon.

**Coastal District:** Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4, subsistence salmon fishing for the entire Coastal District will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

**District 1 Subsistence Gillnet Salmon Fishing:** Subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets is currently closed. Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for one 12-hour period from 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4, until 8:00 a.m. Friday, July 5, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Subsistence fishermen using 6-inch or smaller mesh size may keep Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes

The preliminary commercial harvest for two commercial gillnet periods with the 5 ½-inch or smaller mesh size and not exceeding 30 meshes in depth in District 1 is approximately 32,800 summer chum salmon with a reported 55 Chinook salmon caught but not sold. Fishermen are reminded to report their incidental harvest of Chinook salmon when delivering. Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Based on the abundance of summer chum salmon, this announcement opens one commercial fishing period in District 1.

**District 1 Commercial Gillnet (South Mouth Only):** Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open from 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4 until 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 4. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 5 ½-inch or smaller mesh size and not exceeding 30 meshes in depth to target summer chum salmon.

Based on current assessment information, the area open to commercial fishing is being limited to only a portion of District 1 in which the incidental harvest rate of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low. The portion open to commercial fishing will be the South Mouth area down river of the lower point of Head of Passes to Chris Point within District 1. Both locations are identified by ADF&G regulatory markers. The area open to commercial fishing includes Black River, Kwiguk Pass, and coastal waters from the Black River to one mile north of Kwiguk Pass. Middle and North Mouth and passes such as Aproka and Bugomowik, north of the mainstem South Mouth are closed to commercial fishing.

The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited. Therefore, commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen in District 1 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the salmon fishing schedule.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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